

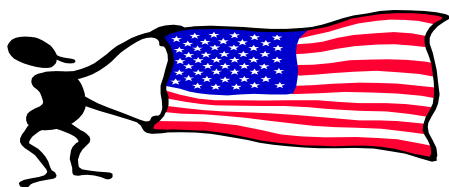
THE SCHOOL BELL

Publisher S M E A

Volume No. 1

Issue No. 3

Date November 1, 2001



It is that time of year again.
It is time for the MEA-PAC drive to begin.

Who is your local PAC?

We are your coordinating council, a group of teachers and support personnel who volunteer to make decisions about supporting candidates and issues that impact our lives as public education employees.

How are we funded?

You, the members who give financial support to the MEA-PAC every year, fund us.

We need you.

It is critical that every teacher, secretary, paraprofessional, score tech, support person and maintenance worker donate to PAC. We cannot use dues dollars for political activities. The only way we have to raise funds is through donations from you. MEA PAC and your local PAC look out for your interests in the political arena; however we cannot be effective without financial support from you.

When do you give?

The PAC enrollment forms are available at each work site. Following are some reasons why PAC is important to you.

We look forward to your support.

Political Contributions Count

Are you enjoying the extra days and hours this year?

- Do you relish spending two weeks of instructional time administering the MEAP Test?
- Is extra professional development your idea of how to spend summer vacation?
- Are the legislative attempts to dismantle MESSA just a minor irritation?
- Do you think certification standards should be increased even more?
- Would you like Michigan to become a “right to work” state?
- Does it not matter to you who serves on our school board?
- Will you be satisfied with reduced retirement benefits?
- Do you deserve less pay for the work you do?
- Is your local school district Bond Issue not important to you?
- Do you think funding per pupil irrelevant?

If the answer to any of these questions is NO, then...

when your building representative or Local President asks you to contribute to PAC,

you need to say YES!

Political action pays!

Give away planned for Xmas

If you haven't filled out your PAC, do it now. Political contributions are the life-blood of lobbying. MEA's lobby efforts mean more money for school. An MEA PAC contribution is a vote for better schools, locally, state-wide and nationally. Donate now, (or if you have already donated), and you could be eligible to win one of four (4) \$50 gift certificates. If the 5 E,G coordinating council raises an additional \$2000 in PAC between now and December 15, donors will be eligible to win. If you do not donate, you can't win! Give whatever you can, \$2 per pay period goes a long way in Lansing AND locally!

Free classifieds attract very few takers!

The School Bell will run MEA members' classified ads for free. Ads will be placed in the newsletter first come first served and inclusion will be based on space limitations and editorial prerogative. All editorial decisions will be final. Please enclose contact information. Ads will not be included without phone numbers or e-mails. The School Bell will not take messages for, or conduct business for, advertisers or buyers. Additionally, The School Bell takes no responsibility for the quality of the goods for sale or trade.

What? – What are you trying to sell? Put it here next month. Sell it cheap and fast!

Your Ad here in the next issue. Call 279 5285 for details. MEA members only!

“Probationary Teacher” training in November

The Michigan Education Association office in Three Rivers will be offering training and informational meetings for local members at least once a month.

November 29, 2001 “Probationary Teachers”

All trainings, except Jan. 12, will be 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the MEA office in Three Rivers. Refreshments will be provided.

The MEA in Three Rivers is committed to your professional growth and success. Don't hesitate to call with questions or for more information: 616 279 5285. See you at the MEA office!

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Submitted by the MEA Cultural Heritage Committee

Did you know...?

Native Americans taught pioneers crossing the American desert to eat insects? Hungry pioneers fried Rocky Mountain locusts in oil until crisp, then

seasoned them with salt. One recipe for locust stew was: Boil prepared Rocky Mountain locusts in salted water. Add assorted cut-up vegetables, butter, salt, and vinegar to the broth and cook until the vegetables are tender. Serve as thick soup or over boiled rice as a main dish.

Native Americans introduced chewing gum to the pilgrims? In New England, Indians chewed resin from black spruce when they were hungry, and this gum eased hunger pangs. The first commercial manufacture of chewing gum in America was in Maine, about 1850. Following the Indian practice, the commercial chewing gum was spruce resin flavored.

Native Americans in Virginia fattened pigs on peanuts, and smoked the rear legs of pigs (hams) over hickory fires? This led to the development of Smithfield hams. It is said that the best Smithfield hams are made from hogs that are partially peanut-fed.

MEA IPD CONFERENCE

"Public Education: Dynamic and Diverse"

November 29-December 1, 2001

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dearborn

For any education employee who works with special education students, the IPD conference is a must attend event. Pre-register now to attend an entire series of sessions about the newest rules and regulations governing special education, strategies for enhancing the learning of your students, and tips for working with their parents.

A special series of sessions will be offered at the IPD Conference dealing with issues and concerns facing new MEA members. First-time IPD attendees are eligible for a reduced conference registration fee.

Conference sessions designed to bring you up to date on the Information Technology Training Initiative in Michigan, provide you with teaching and learning strategies that incorporate technology and introduce you to practical guides to Internet resources will all be available at IPD.

The country's most outspoken critic of education's fixation on grades and test scores says that every hour spent preparing kids to do well on a standardized test is an hour not spent helping them to become critical, creative, curious learners. Acclaimed author Alfie Kohn will help MEA members understand the damaging effects of standardized testing in a keynote speech at the MEA's IDP Conference at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 1 at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn. Kohn's most recent book, *The Case Against Standardized Testing*, says the effort to raise test scores typically comes at the expense of more meaningful forms of learning.